

Budget Unit Brief

FY 2017



National Guard Educational Assistance Program

Eligibility

The National Guard Education Assistance Program provides grants to National Guard members attending eligible Iowa colleges and universities, including community colleges. Applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Must be an Iowa resident and a member of the Army or Air National Guard for each term that benefits are received.
- Must satisfactorily complete required Guard training and maintain satisfactory performance of required Guard duty.
- Must be pursuing a certificate or undergraduate degree at an eligible Iowa college or university and maintain satisfactory academic progress.

Awards

The maximum award cannot exceed the average resident tuition rate established for the Regents universities. Each year, the Guard determines what percentage of tuition will be reimbursed based on the available funding and the anticipated number of applications. The level of applications can be difficult to predict due to changes in Guard deployments.

Between FY 2008 and FY 2012, the program averaged 1,400 applicants annually, with 1,200 annual awards averaging \$3,200 each.

Awardees are limited to receiving total assistance under the program for up to 120 semester, or the equivalent, credit hours of undergraduate study.

Funding

The program receives an annual General Fund appropriation. Funding levels fluctuate as a result of increasing or decreasing demand due to decreased deployment levels. For FY 2017, the Program received an appropriation of \$4.6 million, decreased from \$5.1 million in FY 2016. The decrease was a result of decreased deployment levels and unspent FY 2016 funds that will be available for expenditure in FY 2017.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code section [261.86](#)

[283](#) Iowa Administrative Code chapter [20](#)

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More Information

College Student Aid Commission: <https://www.iowacollegeaid.gov/>

Iowa General Assembly: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/>

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